TIMES-VIRGINIAN

In the Heart of Virginia's Dark Tobacco Belt

Appomattox, Virginia

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Mr. and Mrs. Calvin Robinson ..... *Editors and Publishers*

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THREE INDICATIONS OF AN EXCITING RACE

There are three signs pointing to an exciting Presidential race this year. They are, in our opinion:

The uncertainty over the Democratic nominee, and the interest that is bound to arise in a close contest within that party over selection of a candidate and a platform.

The Farm Issue. On this issue the Republican Party is badly divided, and the chances of the GOP losing the big farm state votes.

The issue of Integration, with its indication that the South will be solid for the Democrats and a large sector of the Negro vote in the North will return to the Republican Party because of its fight to abolish segregation.

Whereas, a few weeks ago, it seemed fairly certain that Adlai Stevenson would again be the Democratic nominee, and he is still the leader, the picture within the party has changed greatly, and today we would say that is a wide open contest, with prospects of an exciting convention. In some quarters, there are those who would favor a Democratic ticket of Governor Frank Lauche, of Ohio, for President, and Senator Estes Kefsauver for Vice-President. But many other names are being mentioned, and the host of "favorite son" candidates will be a great factor when the Democrats gather in Chicago on August 13.

On the farm issue, the Democrats are sure to play up the fact that Eisenhower campaigned in 1952 on a promise of 90 and even 100 per cent of parity. If the President goes into the campaign with Secretary of Agriculture Benson still in his cabinet, it is likely that Benson will be a major target for the opposition. Often, the farm vote is unpredictable, and is not voted as a bloc. Many of the big farm states are normally Republican, and it may be that the Democrats are over-confident as to their chance of repeating the Truman victory of 1946 in the farm states. However, the farm issue will be in for a lot of airing between now and November.

The most bitter issue of the campaign may turn out to be over forced integration of the races. An issue of this sort is explosive, and could sear the nation. We would prefer to see moderation prevail, but what is to be will have to be and we can only hope for the best.

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THE EXECUTIVE VS. CONGRESS

Three high Executive Department officials, including Secretary of Commerce Sinclair Weeks, recently refused to testify in public, or turn over certain information, to the Senate Investigation subcommittee, headed by Senator John McClellan (D-Ark.)

The officials offered to testify in secret session, and they also offered to allow Senate subcommittee members to see documents involved, but on a confidential basis, with the confidential restriction binding on the Senators.

Members of the subcommittee felt officials lacked authority to limit their testimony, or delivery of records, in that the Senate had full rights to subpoena both the officials and the records involved. President Eisenhower is obviously supporting the officials, just as his predecessor, Harry S. Truman, supported certain of his Executive Department officials against somewhat similar demands from Congress.

Sooner or later, the test of authority may go into the courts. The Executive branch in recent years has claimed that the separation of powers, philosophy and intent, in the Constitution, allows a president, or his top officials to refuse to reveal certain secrets or bear certain records in Congressional committees.

Because some Congressmen and Senators have abused these powers in the past and grabbed the publicity spotlight by revealing information they should have withheld from the public, the Executive Department has much official sentiment on its side, in one sense of the word.

However, a great principle is involved—whether the Congress of the United States can subpoena any records or any official. The line must be drawn somewhere, and friction in the past few years makes it evident that a line must eventually be firmly established.

* * *

ANOTHER BASEBALL SEASON

Big league baseball is off on another season, with hopes that somehow the great national sport will regain some of the ground it has lost in recent years. Big concern as to the sport, is that so many minor leagues have had to close up shop after losing all the money they could afford to lose. And if the minor leagues fold up, who is to feed players to the big league clubs. There are some minor leagues that are still showing plenty of life, and in many a town, the best answer to a shortage of paying customers, is a good team playing smart baseball. And as the season begins, the argument will be renewed as to the effect upon attendance of radio and television broadcasts of the games. Some contend that television of big league games has contributed to the decline of baseball at the sandlot and minor league level. We do not know this to be true. It may be noted, however, that there will be no Piedmont League with Virginia teams this season. The old Virginia League, and then the Piedmont League had long sojourns in the Old Dominion. Chances are that they will not be revived. Softball is gaining in favor in many localities, and may be an ideal replacement for pro baseball, since there is larger participation and local players are used. Save for a few games at the high school level, baseball seems finished in Appomattor County. It had a long hold upon public favor. One other comment: as interest shifts to other sports, the make-up of the sports pages of the daily newspapers will change their complexion.

Richard D. Robinson

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VA. AGAIN IN DRIVE TO "SLOW DOWN AND LIVE"

Richmond, Va.- With the signing by Governor Stanley of the official endorsement, Virginia will participate for the third year in the now national "Slow Down and Live" program which will be in effect during the summer months, Captain R. B. King, State Police Safety Officer and Assistant Administrator of the Governor's Highway Safety Committee, announced today. Captain King has also been designated State Coordinator for Virginia.

The Governors of all 48 states have pledged full assistance in working to reduce speeding and other "in a hurry" types of dangerous driving. Running from Memorial Day through Labor Day, the campaign is sponsored nationally by the National Conference of State Safety Coordinators.

During the 1954 period, Virginia reduced deaths to 198 from the 249 of 1953 and was one of nine of the then 23 participating states to show a reduction. The 1955 campaign, conducted nationally, was judged mildly successful as overall deaths were held to 6 per cent above the 1954 score in the fact of unprecedented increase in highway travel. Virginia, on the other hand, was markedly unsuccessful, as deaths rose from 198 to 253.

In appealing to both the general public and those in various official capacities, Captain King listed the dangerous acts against which attention should be directed as speed in excess of the posted limits, speed too fast for existing conditions, improper passing, failure to yield the right of way and following too closely, which according to the national sponsors, are factors in 90 per cent of all crashes.

Washington Notes

TOURISTS

Estimates of the number of Americans who will go to Europe this summer, in quest of culture or pleasure, run as high as 550,000 and of the total of those who will make trips outside the United States as high as 2,000,000. They are expected to spend more than $1,500,000,000.

SMALL FARMS

The House Agriculture subcommittee recently pointd out that as farm production capacity has increased, 600,000 farms have vanished between 1940 and 1954, with "factory in the field" commercial operations threatening to supplant entirely the small farm.

DOMESTIC HELP TAX

Housewives are reminded that if they employ domestic help to whom they paid $50 in the first three months of this year, they are due to report the wages and pay the social security tax on them before the end of April.

FOREST FIRES

Forest and range land fires burned over 464,803 acres of Interior Department land during 1955 as compared with 1,624,701 acres burned in 1954. The worst fires last year were the three Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge in Georgia, which burned over 284,230 acres.

FEDERAL HIRING

There were 2,351,371 civilian employees on the Federal payroll in February, an increase of 4,621 over January. The February rise was the second consecutive increase after four successive months in which there were reductions in the Federal civilian work force. The total did not include 299,878 foreign nationals working for American military agencies abroad.

TRAFFIC DEATHS

Motor vehicle fatalities in February equalled the all-time high for a February, according to the National Safety Council. It reported a total of 2,630 Americans killed, the same number as in February in 1941 and 1952. The total this year was 16 per cent higher than in 1955. The first two months of this year accountd for 5,590 deaths, 50% above the total for the same period of 1955.

NEW SMITHSONIAN UNIT

A contract for $1,350,000 has been awarded to a New York firm to design a new museum of history and technology of the Smithsonian Institution. The new building is to be located on Constitution Avenue between Twelfth and Fourteenth Streets, Northwest. Plans call for construction to get under way next spring.

RETAIL SALES

Retail trade as a whole continues to lag a little behind the record pace of the closing months of 1955, according to the Commerce Department. While Easter sales in some sections of the country were better than usual, there were many areas in which storms kept shoppers away from the stores.

TAX CUTS?

Congress recently voted to continue the high excise tax rates and corporate income tax rates for another year. The ex- cut in individual in- once considered a tion year, now has chance of passage.

FEDERAL SPEND-

The Federal Gove to spend more than in the 1956-57 fisc will be $1,000,00 000,000 more than rent fiscal year, d appropriations Co makes.

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THE BIBLE SPEAKS

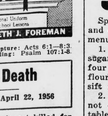
By Cynthia A. Foreman

Scripture: Acts 4:1—8:3
Reading: Psalm 107:1-8

Unto Death

Lesson for April 22, 1956

Why do people get killed for being Christians? It seems impossible, and it hasn't happened to most Christians. But it does occur. Christianity was perhaps only a few months old when the martyr Stephen, met his death at the hands of a mob. Now peculiar feature of that mob was so respectable.



Dr. Foreman

Stephen murdered Stephen. They could not hold their excitement. But that makes it all the more puzzle. A hoodlum gang can shout down a good Christian witness, but why should that distinction kill a man for any other crime than being a Christian?

The Martyrs

We begin to answer that question, we might glance through history and see a few other cases. The story, but the kind of martyrdom that was Stephen's always essentially the same. No matter what brings the killers into action. Who would have brought about the Sanhedrin for Jesus Stephen? They were the people. Who would arrest the Emperor burning the Christians in his gardens? Who would have written a letter to the effect that there had been one complaining about the mass murders by great emperors like Diocletian and Marcus Aurelius, of Christians? So it was with Joan of Arc was burned at the stake, or when "Bloody Mary" was ruling. wild against the Protestants when the Russian Revolution caused the death of noble families, how many hundreds of thousands when the Chinese Communists brought death to millions more in our time. The enemy may be bishops, and Christians, heathen emperors, Christian governments," or Africa, they always have two sides, and what is called Christianity they have public support, but the early French Protestants, the American Indians, the Tomahawked, as so many were, does any one want their scalps were the trophy traces of the battle. A bit of it,—some of more the scalp and the life of everybody in his group. Always the murder of the Christians is done with public approval.

Persecution Is To Be Avoided

We can move a little closer to understanding that church has not always been accepted. Sometimes it has been welcomed, honored. It may even succeed in running the country, nobody would dream of it,—in fact, it may be the fashion and persecute other people. But just say at once—that never happens, it isn't the church of God any more; the church will always be persecuted, and when it isn't, it is a sign it is no longer the true church. There is some truth in that, but we are saying too much. A church can be free from persecution and still be largely Christian. However you can set it down as a principle: Whenever the church, and people in it, do just what the bloody elite does and think as the world thinks, then it will not be persecuted.

Stephen and a Higher Fuehrer"

Martin Niemoeller is a case in point. He was a hero of World War I, who later became a minister of Hitler took over Germany, Niemoeller went along with Hitler did, or at any rate he kept quiet, for a long time. At last time, Martin Niemoeller went right on with his church undisturbed. Then finally he was too much even for Hitler's strong stomach, and Hitler, "I had a higher Leader." So the police and marched that minister to jail, one morning after Do You see? The church is persecuted when all it says the world around it is "Yes, we agree!" The church has been persecuted, and will be persecuted here in America even, when—like Stephen of old—it does not above public opinion, "mores," respectable authorities and powers, higher Leader.

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FARM BUREAU ELECTS OFFICERS

Lynchburg, Va.—Virginia Farm Bureau Federation delegates elected officers and directors for the coming year at the annual meeting here.

Re-elected president was Mills E. Gooch, Jr., Dinwiddie County farmer. Re-elected vice-president was Ralph Hux, Rockingham County farmer.

Elected to the board of directors were Ralph Hux, Rockingham County; Mills E. Gooch, Jr., Dinwiddie County; Ralph Hux, Rockingham County; Ralph Hux, Rockingham County; Ralph Hux, Rockingham